

Merced County Association of Governments

369 W. 18th Street • Merced, CA 95340 • Phone (209)723-3153 • FAX (209)723-0322

May 21, 2003

Mr. Kris Balaji, Chief
Caltrans Division of Transportation Programming, MS 82
Office of Federal Transportation Management Program
P.O. Box 924874
Sacramento, CA 94274-0001

Attention: Muhaned Aljabiry

Subject: Formal Amendment No. 6.0 - *2002 Federal Transportation Improvement (FTIP) Program – Merced County Transit CNG Buses One Bus*

Mr. Aljabiry,

On April 17, 2003, the Merced County Association of Governments (MCAG) Governing Board approved Formal Amendment No. 6 to the 2002 Federal Transportation Improvement Program changing the title of the project to reflect the Congressional FTA-5309 Earmark Appropriation. The original project scope addressed in the Congressional Earmark request included: CNG Bus purchases; a CNG fueling facility; and CNG shop equipment. The Earmark Appropriation is identified in Table 9 of the FTA FY 2002 Section 5309 Bus Allocation as “Merced County Transit CNG buses”. The Federal Transit Administration insists that the earmarked funds can only be used to purchase CNG buses although the request for funding included a CNG fueling facility as well as CNG shop equipment.


In following the direction of the FTA, MCAG has changed the title of this project from “CNG fueling facility” to “Merced County Transit CNG Buses-one bus”. MCAG processed this title change to the FTIP under administrative amendment 5.0, yet Caltrans Headquarters has stated that it must be processed as a formal amendment.

A Formal FTIP Amendment is required when there is a major scope change, project addition or deletion. This project title change does not trigger an air quality conformity analysis as it is an exempt mass transportation project.

MCAG is requesting formal approval by Caltrans and the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) on the project title change.

If additional information is needed, please contact Terri Lewis at (209) 723-3153 ext. 307
or by e-mail terri@mcag.cog.ca.us.

Sincerely,



Jesse Brown
Executive Director

cc:

Michelle Fuller, Federal Highway Administration
Tom Jordan, San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District
Mike Brady, Caltrans HQ
Greg Wong, Caltrans HQ
Bob Swensen, Caltrans Division of Programming
Harlan Woo, Caltrans Division of Programming
Karina O'Conner, Environmental Protection Agency-Region 9
Dana Cowell, Caltrans District 10
Jane Perez, Caltrans District 10
Connie Medina, Caltrans District 10
Wade Hobbs, Federal Highway Administration
Doug Ito, California Air Resources Board
Jerry Wiggins, Federal Transit Administration
Cari Anderson, Earth Matters
SJ COG Directors

Enclosures:

CTIPS detail page
GB Minute Order
January 16, 2001 Congressional Earmark request
Table 9- FTA FY 2002 Section 5309 Bus Allocations

Merced County Association of Governments - Federal Transportation Improvement Program
(Dollars in Whole)
Local Highway System

DIST: 10	COUNTY: Merced County	TITLE (DESCRIPTION):	MPO Aprv: 04/17/2003
ROUTE: VAR	PM:	MCT CNG Buses - one bus purchase (Merced County Transit CNG Buses	State Aprv: 04/17/2003
PPNO:	KP:	- one bus purchase)	Federal Aprv: 04/17/2003
EA:	MPO ID: TJ014		
CTIPS ID: 205-0000-0091			

IMPLEMENTING AGENCY: Transit Joint Powers Authority for Merced County	PRJ MGR: LARRY SHANKLAND	EPA TABLE II or III EXEMPT CATEGORY:
PHONE: (209) 385-7601		Purchase new buses and rail cars to replace exist.

PROJECT VERSION HISTORY (Printed Version is Shaded)

Version	Status	Official Date	Updated By	Change Reason	Amend No.	Prog Con	Prog RW	PE
3	Official	04/17/2003	TLEWIS	Amendment - Cost/Scope/Sch. Change	6	375,000		
2	Official	10/04/2002	TLEWIS	Amendment - Other (Explain ==>)	5	375,000		
1	Official	05/23/2002	TLEWIS	Adoption - New Project		375,000		

	PRIOR	02/03	03/04	04/05	05/06	06/07	07/08	BEYOND	TOTAL
• Fund Source 1 of 2	PE								
• Fund Type: FTA5309(c) - Bus	RW								
• Funding Agency: Transit Joint Powers Authority for Merced County	CON		300,000						300,000
	TOTAL		300,000						300,000

	PRIOR	02/03	03/04	04/05	05/06	06/07	07/08	BEYOND	TOTAL
• Fund Source 2 of 2	PE								
• Fund Type: Local Transportation Funds	RW								
• Funding Agency: Transit Joint Powers Authority for Merced County	CON		75,000						75,000
	TOTAL		75,000						75,000

Project Total	PRIOR	02/03	03/04	04/05	05/06	06/07	07/08	BEYOND	TOTAL
	PE								
	RW								
	CON		375,000						375,000
	TOTAL		375,000						375,000

Comments:

Project title changed to CNG purchase-one bus per FTA. Although Congressional Earmark request included CNG bus purchase, CNG facility construction, and CNG shop upgrades, funds can only be use for CNG bus(es) purchase per FTA. Governing Board has directed MCAG to implement a one bus CNG demonstration. This is not a project scope change as all components were included in the earmark request. Caltrans HQ would not approve administrative amendment 5.0 on this change, now processed as 6.0 formal amendment.

***** Version 3 - 04/30/2003 *****

***** Version 2 - 09/20/2002 *****

Original scope of project includes CNG Buses for UC Merced/Cng fueling facility(s). Congressional appropriations language states "Merced County Transit CNG buses". Title corrected to match appropriations project name.

***** Version 1 - 02/26/2002 *****

\$300,000 of FTA5309 funds earmarked per LS.

Total estimated project cost is \$1,250,000.

Will amend if additional funds are earmarked by congress

MINUTE ORDER

MERCED COUNTY ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS

EXCERPT FROM MINUTES, MEETING HELD:


April 17, 2003

RE: **FEDERAL TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (FTIP)
FORMAL AMENDMENT #6**

Item 15d. **Federal Transportation Improvement Program (FTIP) Formal
Amendment #6**

Supervisor O'Banion moved to approve Amendment #6 to the 2002 Federal Transportation Improvement Program (FTIP) changing the project title of "CNG fueling facility" to "Merced County Transit CNG Buses – one bus." Seconded by Supervisor Crookham.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.



Jesse B. Brown, Executive Director
Merced County Association of Governments



Merced County Association of Governments

369 W. 18th Street ▪ Merced, CA 95340 ▪ Phone (209)723-3153 ▪ FAX (209)723-0322

January 16, 2001

The Honorable Gary A. Condit
U.S. House of Representatives, 18th District
2245 Rayburn Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Condit:

The Transit Joint Powers Authority for Merced County (TJPAMC) is the consolidated public transit system serving Merced County. As you are well aware, University of California, Merced will place significant demands upon the Merced County area. Among those demands will be the increased usage of the public transit system.

Attached is a proposal summary which would meet the anticipated increased capacity of Merced County's public transit system and provide service between UC Merced, CSU Stanislaus, and Merced College. The total cost of additional buses and the required fueling infrastructure to meet the demand of the UC is estimated to cost \$5,700,000. The TJPAMC requests your assistance to secure 80% of this amount - **\$4,560,000** - with an earmark allocation of Section 5309 funds.

An alternate option is proposed whereby in addition to the acquisition of additional buses and required fueling infrastructure, enough buses would be procured to meet the demands of the California Air Resources Board new emissions requirements. This alternate option would cost \$21,600,000. The Section 5309 earmark allocation, 80% of that amount, would equal \$17,280,000.

We appreciate your continued support of UC Merced and assistance in meeting the challenges of the UC's impacts upon Merced County's transportation infrastructure. If you have any questions, please contact me at (209) 723-3153.

Sincerely,

Jesse B. Brown
Executive Director

cc: Larry Shankland, Transportation Manager, Merced County Transit
Paul Fillebrown, Director of Public Works, Merced County
Demetrios O. Tatum, Acting County Administrator, Merced County
Anthony Altfeld, City Manager, City of Atwater
Darrell Fonseca, City Manager, City of Dos Palos
Amy Spann Gedney, City Manager, City of Gustine
Mark D. Melville, City Manager, City of Livingston
Steve Rath, City Manager, City of Los Banos
James G. Marshall, City Manager, City of Merced

**OBTAIN BUSES AND BUS FACILITIES
TO MEET TRANSIT DEMAND PRESENTED BY UC MERCED**

Project Proposal

This project proposes to procure Merced County transit vehicles to meet the demand for public transit presented by the new University of California, Merced campus. In addition, the transit vehicles will utilize Compressed Natural Gas (CNG), as mandated by the California Air Resources Board emissions requirements in effect January 1, 2007.

As Merced County Transit's fleet is entirely diesel, Merced County Transit will also need to install a CNG fueling facility and obtain CNG shop equipment in order to run and maintain the CNG transit vehicles. The project might be appropriate for a Section 5309 Congressional earmark.

It is important to note that from the time Merced County Transit awards a contract till receiving delivery takes approximately 18 months. The fueling facility is estimated to take 18 months to construct. UC Merced is projected to begin accepting students in 2004.

Schedule/Cost

Option A Merced County Transit CNG Buses for UC Merced

Quantity	Item	Cost Each	Total Cost
12	38 passenger bus	\$325,000	\$3,900,000
1	Compressed Natural Gas Fueling facility (adjacent to Merced County Transit facility)	\$1,250,000	\$1,250,000
NA	Compressed Natural Gas shop equipment	\$550,000	\$550,000
TOTAL PROJECT COST			\$5,700,000
Match @ 20%			\$1,140,000
Total Requested			\$4,560,000

Option B Merced County Transit CNG Buses County-Wide, including UC Merced

Quantity	Item	Cost Each	Total Cost
36	38 passenger bus	\$325,000	\$11,700,000
21	16 passenger paratransit vehicle	\$100,000	\$2,100,000
2	Compressed Natural Gas Fueling facility [one for 10-bus facility on west side (\$700,000), one for 35-bus facility (\$1,250,000) on east side]		\$1,950,000
NA	Compressed Natural Gas shop equipment	\$350,000	\$350,000
1	Bus maintenance facility	\$5,500,000	\$5,500,000
TOTAL PROJECT COST			\$21,600,000
Match @ 20%			4,320,000
Total Requested			\$17,280,000

Transportation Benefit

Option A	
2 buses	UC Campus-Merced College-downtown Merced
2 buses	UC Campus-Winton-Merced College-CSU Stanislaus
2 buses	UC Campus-Merced College-Los Banos/Dos Palos
1 bus	UC Campus-Castle-Atwater-Livingston-Gustine
1 bus	UC Campus-Planada-Le Grand-Merced College
4 buses	spares to be used while above buses are being serviced and maintained
12 buses total	

Option B	
2 buses	UC Campus-Merced College-downtown Merced
2 buses	UC Campus-Winton-Merced College-CSU Stanislaus
2 buses	UC Campus-Merced College-Los Banos/Dos Palos
1 bus	UC Campus-Castle-Atwater-Livingston-Gustine
1 bus	UC Campus-Planada-Le Grand-Merced College
4 buses	City of Merced-central areas, including Merced College, shopping & medical centers
2 buses	City of Merced-southeastern, eastern and northeastern areas, including Merced College, downtown, and Sutter Medical Center.
2 buses	City of Merced-central crosstown, serving downtown, Sutter Medical Center, Mercy Hospital, Human Services Agency, and Private Industry Training Department.
2 buses	City of Merced - north central crosstown, including Merced College, Amtrak, Mercy Hospital, downtown, north shopping centers.
2 buses	City of Merced - western and south west Merced, downtown, Merced College, Walmart, & Merced Mall.
1 bus	Intercity - between Hilmar, Delhi and Livingston, and Turlock in Stanislaus County.
1 bus	Intercity - between Livingston, Winton, Atwater and downtown Merced.
1 bus	Intercity - between Winton, Atwater, and City of Merced major shopping centers.
1 bus	Intercity - between Le Grand, Planada, and downtown Merced.
1 bus	Intercity - between Dos Palos, Los Banos and Merced.
4 buses	City of Los Banos - major shopping and medical centers and westside Merced College campus.
2 buses	Intercity - between Atwater, Winton, and Castle Airport.
5 buses	spares to be used while above buses are being serviced and maintained
36 buses total	

Patti Dosetti

From: Patti Dosetti
Sent: Wednesday, February 28, 2001 4:22 PM
To: 'Groves, Randy'
Subject: RE: Grant req. info. - Merced County Transit

Hi Randy,
See below. Thanks in advance for your assistance. If there's anything else you need, please let me know.
-Patti

TRANSIT PROJECT REQUESTS

BUS AND/OR BUS FACILITY PROJECT

If you are requesting funds for a bus and/or bus facility project, please answer the following questions:

1. Please identify the proper name of the project and provide a brief description of the project.
Merced County Transit Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) Buses; to meet transit demands of UC Merced
The Transit Joint Powers Authority for Merced County (TJPAMC), the consolidated public transit system serving Merced County, will procure 12 additional buses to meet the increased usage of the public transit system by UC Merced. The buses must be CNG to meet the demands of the new California Air Resources Board emissions requirements. The proposal also includes CNG fueling infrastructure, which currently does not exist in Merced County.
UC Merced is scheduled to begin accepting students in 2004. From the time Merced County Transit formally applies with FTA for these funds to the time of bus delivery is expected to be at least 24 months.
2. What is the total estimated cost of the project? How is it divided between federal and non-federal sources?
Total project cost is \$5,700,000. TJPAMC's 20 percent match is \$1,140,000. TJPAMC has committed this match from Transportation Development Act/Local Transportation Fund dollars.
3. How much funding are you seeking in fiscal year 2002?
\$4,560,000; from Section 5309 funds.
4. Has this project been funded before? If so, how much and in what fiscal years?
No.
5. Is there a public transportation component to this project? If so, please describe it.
Yes. The Transit Joint Powers Authority for Merced County (TJPAMC), the consolidated public transit system serving Merced County, will procure 12 additional buses to meet the increased usage of the public transit system by UC Merced. The buses must be CNG to meet the demands of the new California Air Resources Board emissions requirements. The proposal also includes CNG fueling infrastructure, which currently does not exist in Merced County.
6. Is the area's transit operator involved in the project? If so, please identify who the transit operator is and a phone number. Has the requested earmark been discussed with the transit operator?
Yes. The transit operator is the entity requesting the project. The Executive Director for the TJPAMC is Jesse B. Brown, phone 209-723-3153.
7. Has the grantee been identified? If so, please name.
Yes. The grantee is the Transit Joint Powers Authority for Merced County (TJPAMC), the consolidated public transit system serving Merced County.
8. If this is a construction project, has the site been selected? If so, where?
The CNG fueling facility will be constructed at the Merced County Transit maintenance facility. Merced County

owns the site.

9. Has the Federal Transit Administration's regional office been contacted about this project? If so, when and what office? If known, please provide the location and phone number of the FTA office with jurisdiction over this project.

Yes. The Region IX office of FTA was notified on June 29, 2000 of the project; the project is identified in Merced County's Federal Transportation Improvement Program (FTIP). FTA approved the FTIP, inclusive of this project, on October 6, 2000.

FTA's Region IX location is: 201 Mission Street, Suite 2210, San Francisco, CA 94105. Regional Administrator is Mr. Leslie Rogers; the FTA representative assigned to administer this project is Jerome Wiggins, phone 415-744-3118.

10. What is the status of the environmental work underway or completed?

CEQA environmental clearances are under way by Merced County staff. The project is anticipated to be "categorically exempt".

11. Is the local share for the project identified and available at this time? If state or local funds are involved, what legislative actions are necessary to make funds available?

TJPAMC's local share is \$1,140,000; the funds have been identified and are available. TJPAMC has committed this match from Transportation Development Act/Local Transportation Fund dollars. No legislative actions are necessary to make the funds available.

12. Will the proposed earmark fully fund the project or will additional federal discretionary funds be needed in future years? If additional funds will be sought, what are the annual federal funds necessary for the project and when is completion anticipated?

The proposed earmark will fully fund the project. No additional federal discretionary funds will be requested in future years for the project.

-----Original Message-----

From: Groves, Randy [SMTP:Randy.Groves@mail.house.gov]
Sent: Monday, February 26, 2001 9:57 AM
To: pdossett@mcag.cog.ca.us
Subject: Grant req. info.

Hello Patti;

Here are the questions the subcommittee wants answered and submitted with the approps/grant request.

They need to be returned by the end of the week.

Don't worry about the form, just give me the data and however they want it, I will make it happen.

Thanks.

Randy

CA	City of Sierra Madre bus replacement	148,504
CA	City of Visalia transit center	2,475,073
CA	Contra Costa Connection buses	346,510
CA	Costa Mesa CNG facility	247,507
CA	County of Amador bus replacement	117,813
CA	County of Calaveras bus fleet replacement	103,953
CA	County of El Dorado bus fleet expansion	470,264
CA	Davis, Sacramento hydrogen bus technology	891,026
CA	El Garces train/intermodal station	1,485,044
CA	Folsom railroad block project	594,017
CA	Foothill Transit, CNG buses and bus facilities	1,237,536
CA	Glendale Beeline CNG buses	297,009
CA	Imperial Valley CNG bus maintenance facility	247,507
CA	Livermore Amador Valley Transit Authority buses and facility	1,485,044
CA	Livermore park and ride	247,507
CA	Los Angeles Metro Transportation Authority rapid buses and bus facilities	3,465,102
CA	Merced County Transit CNG buses	297,009
CA	City of Modesto, bus facilities	198,006
CA	Monterey-Salinas Transit facility	1,485,044
CA	Morongo Basin Transit maintenance and administration facility	990,029
CA	MUNI Central Control Facility	990,029
CA	Municipal Transit Operators Coalition	1,980,058
CA	North Ukiah Transit Center	297,009
CA	Orange County buses	297,009
CA	Palmdale Transportation Center	247,507
CA	Palo Alto intermodal transit center	247,507
CA	Pasadena Area Rapid Transit System	396,012
CA	Placer County, CNG bus project	990,029
CA	Sacramento Regional buses and bus facilities	990,029
CA	Sam Trans zero-emissions fuel cell buses	990,029
CA	San Bernardino CNG/LNG buses	371,261
CA	San Dieguito Transportation Cooperative	297,009
CA	San Francisco Municipal buses and bus facilities	3,960,116
CA	San Joaquin Regional Transit District Bus facility	495,015
CA	San Mateo County Transit Districts clean fuel buses	1,485,044
CA	Santa Ana bus base	1,237,536
CA	Santa Barbara hybrid bus rapid transit project	1,980,058
CA	Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority line 22 articulated buses	594,017